

NEXT CLUB MEETING: April 23, 2014

Greg Afman will talk about his experiences in Japan, his bonsai apprenticeship and the American/Japanese perspective of bonsai. Greg will be exploring these topics through the lens of contradiction. On the other hand, the "microcosm of consistency" has to do with overcoming these "contradictions" by focusing on the trees themselves. Additional information can be found below.



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GREG AFMAN

Originally from the Grand Rapids area, Greg spent ten years in Tokyo, Japan. While at the University of Michigan, studying Art History, Greg became interested in Japanese culture and bonsai then decided to move to Japan to explore the country first hand. Not long after arriving in Japan, Greg was fortunate to have been selected as an apprentice at Daiju-en and Aichi-en. He has worked as a gardener for a Japanese garden construction/maintenance company. Greg's interest in horticulture has taken him to Longwood Gardens where he graduated from their Professional Gardener Program. During his time at Longwood, he also worked at the Kennett Collection, a private bonsai collection, which contained over 1,000 bonsai. Currently, Greg holds the position of Lead Horticulturist for the Japanese Garden at Frederik Meijer Gardens.

MARCH MEETING

Julian Adams' Pine Presentation A Summary by P. Kulesa



There are many pines used in bonsai. Julian divides pine into two groups, those that are vigorous and those that are less so. Many of the techniques to manage pine development are the same but differ in the timing of application. Pine can be developed from seed, though the characteristics of the progeny vary. For this reason,

finding variation in the pine from seed development is useful. Grafts of pine are often unappealing while asexual reproduction ensures genetically identical material.

Julian wants to encourage those developing pine to time their maintenance to observations of the annual growth cycle. The goal is the application of care guidelines while understanding the biological and physical effects. Then, wait for the results to appear. Success in the development of pine comes with understanding the growth cycle and understanding how the pine tolerates these techniques.

Understanding annual growth cycle is dependent on definition of terms used in their application.

- Needles are leaves – collecting solar energy and driving all pine development.
- Needle Cluster – Any number of needles originating at any one point.
- Buds – The source of new growth.
- Bud Cluster – Multiple buds at the terminal of a branch.
- Candle – The extension of a bud. Bud size is reflected in candle length.
- Scale – Scales appear on the candle as it develops. Each scale will produce a needle cluster.
- Shoot – This is the aging candle and includes the appearance of needles from the candle.
- Balancing Energy – Equal strength at all growing points on the tree.

Annual Growth Cycle

This cycle has identifiable features seen in the pine and is loosely associated with a time period.

- Dormancy – The buds are tight with no activity - deep winter.
- Dormancy ends when white root tips appear – early spring.
- Bud swelling and candle lengthening is often a 4-6 week long period - in spring.
- Candles progress into shoot growth – late spring.
- The shoot growth progresses to the appearance of needle clusters that begins to lengthen and spread – late spring to early summer.
- Once the needles unfurl, they will harden-off over a week, turning from a bright lime green to a darker green.
- Foliage growth stops and new terminal buds begin development – summer through mid-fall.
- Older needles drop off in late fall.
- Dormancy is repeated – late fall through early spring.

Adventitious buds appear from mid-summer through mid-fall, anywhere on the tree, often where no needles exist. Over time, the bud will swell and erupt with needles. Once the needles appear, larger buds will form.

There is a better time for the application of all training techniques. Julian wants everyone to plan your work on pine for the best time to apply these techniques.

- Wire is best applied while the pine is dormant and small buds are visible.
- Transplant a pine when the root tips are just beginning to extend with white tips and the buds remain compact.
- Micronutrients should be applied in a single annual dose just as the buds are growing.

Balancing Energy

Balancing energy over the entire pine has two objective measurements. The foliage size and density is evenly distributed throughout the tree and the size of buds is roughly the same size over the entire tree. You can balance the energy following these guidelines.

- Maintain foliage close to the trunk, tight and balanced.
- Prune the excessive foliage and buds while the pine is dormant.
- You can remove large buds mid-fall through dormancy.
- You can pinch candles, as they develop to shorten the shoot length and limit the number of needle clusters that remain.
- The earlier you pinch a candle, the shorter the distance between needle clusters.
- Needle length will be reduced following the pruning of roots and the shortening of candles.
- You can restrain watering and restrict the feeding of pine, resulting in shorter needles.

Feeding Pine

After the needles have hardened-off though late August, you can fertilize for the maintenance of your pine using a water-soluble balanced fertilizer, 10-10-10. From late August through October you can feed your pine for root development and to encourage adventitious bud development, using a water-soluble fertilizer, 10-52-10.

Maladies of the Pine

There are a number of bacterial, fungal and insect infestations that are visited on the pine. I will not go into detail with the chemical treatments used on pine. I will mention the cultural steps you can take to improve the health of your pine.

- Do not water the foliage.
- Avoid watering your pine and splashing residue from the ground onto your pine.
- Maximize the circulation of air near your pine.
- Maximize the direct sunlight your pine receives.
- Pine roots develop slowly, root prune less frequently removing less roots.
- Pluck needles regularly to allow light to the interior of the pine.
- Shorten branches gradually, remembering, branches with no foliage die.
- Limit your pine to one trauma per season. Trauma = wiring, root pruning or significant foliage removal.

To improve the appearance of your pine

- Remove the foliage on the lower side of branches, remove those needles that hang down.
- Never skip candle pinching

MARCH BONSAI WORKSHOP

This workshop was on Thursday, March 27, 2014. Ten participants selected their larch and got down to work with Julian.



Julian Contemplates His Work



Tom Phardel, Julian Adams and the Larch

FOR SALE OR WANTED

All members can offer for sale any bonsai and bonsai related materials in the newsletter or at the monthly meeting with no sales fee. AABS Society Members' ads are free to publish in the Newsletter. Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 5th of the month.

If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related, that you do not use anymore and is still in good condition, consider donating it to the Society. Donated trees or other material will be raffled among the members during our monthly meetings.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2014

April 23 - Monthly Meeting

Greg Afman will discuss, "Bonsai - A World of Contradictions and a Microcosm of Consistency"

May 28 - Monthly Meeting

Michael Feduccia of Florida visits AABS

May 29 – Workshop with Michael Feduccia

June 25 - Monthly Meeting

Jerry Meislik returns to discuss the current state of Bonsai in the country.

June 26 – Workshop With Jerry Meislik

July 23 - Monthly Meeting

A Three Member Panel will offer advice and discuss design options for members who bring their bonsai to the meeting

August 22 - Annual Show Setup

August 23-24 - Annual Show

August 27 - Monthly Meeting

September 24 - Monthly Meeting

Our Annual Auction

October 22 – Monthly Meeting

Vance Hanna discusses Tool care and cutting-edge sharpening techniques

REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS 2014

May 10 & 11 - Michigan All-State Show Held at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Go to: www.wmbonsai.org/index.htm

May 17 - 18, 2014 - 10th Annual Spring Mid-America Bonsai Show Held at Chicago Botanic Garden.
Vendors, workshops and demonstrations.

June 28-29, 2014 - Four Season Bonsai Show
Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R. Road, Troy, Michigan

August 15-17, 2014 - 37th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit It is one of the biggest regional shows in the nation at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

August 23-24, 2014 – Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Annual Show Held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor

September 13-14, 2014 - 4th US National Bonsai Exhibit
Held at the Fair Expo Center, Rochester, NY.
This exposition represents the most accomplished level of bonsai in America.

October 4–5, 2014 Fall Bonsai Show – Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club
Held at Van Atta Greenhouse, Lansing, Michigan

2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President is an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

Fund Raising: William Struhar

Web Administration: Ray Domzalski & Don Wenzel

Nomination Committee: Cyril Grum

Show Committee: Ron Milostan, Michael Field and Paul Kulesa.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES – CONTACT THE TREASURER

Joan Wheeler – Treasure AABS
34660 Fountain Blvd
Westland, Michigan 48185
734-338-2525
AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com

The annual dues are \$25. You may pay your dues, mailing a check to the treasurer or talking with Joan at the next meeting. Please pay by check.

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society: <http://absbonsai.org> and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance: <http://mababonsai.org>




Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
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Visit us on the Web:
<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

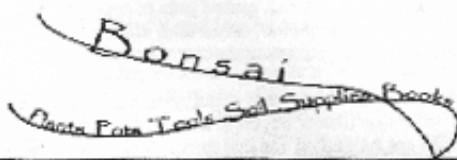
Support Local Bonsai Vendors

Hours: Wed., Thurs. & Fri.; 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sat., 1:30pm to 5:00pm
 CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
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